

a liquid outlet which is provided in the apparatus above the packed bed and through which treated waste water is discharged from the apparatus; and

a water-permeable pressure layer provided on an upper surface of the packed bed and having a load enough to suppress a movement of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent, the water-permeable pressure layer being deformable according to a deformation of the upper surface of the packed bed,

wherein the water-permeable pressure layer is a substance having a plurality of rigid metal particles selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, titanium and zirconium.

Sub H1
G2 10. (Five Times Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:
a layer provided under the packed bed and above the liquid inlet and configured to disperse an upward stream of the waste water and/or a waste gas introduced through the liquid inlet into the apparatus.

G3
Sub H1 14. (Twice Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein each rigid metallic has an average diameter of 3 to 30 mm.

Sub H1
G4 15. (Six Times Amended) A wet-oxidation treatment apparatus for treating waste water, comprising:

a packed bed of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent provided in the apparatus;

a liquid inlet provided in the apparatus below the packed bed and connected to a source of the waste water;

a liquid outlet which is provided in the apparatus above the packed bed and through which treated waste water is discharged from the apparatus; and

a layer provided under the packed bed and above the liquid inlet and configured to disperse an upward stream of the waste water and/or a waste gas introduced through the liquid inlet into the apparatus,

wherein the layer is a substance having a plurality of rigid metallic particles selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, titanium and zirconium.

Please add new Claims 43-45 as follows:

- Sub 21*
G5
43. (New) A wet-oxidation treatment apparatus for treating waste water, comprising:
- a container;
 - a packed bed of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent provided in the container;
 - a liquid inlet provided in the container below the packed bed and connected to a source of the waste water;
 - a liquid outlet which is provided in the container above the packed bed and through which treated waste water is discharged from the container; and
 - a water-permeable pressing layer provided on an upper surface of the packed bed and having a load enough to suppress a movement of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent, the water-permeable pressing layer being deformable according to a deformation of the upper surface of the packed bed and having a plurality of rigid metal particles.
44. (New) A wet-oxidation treatment apparatus for treating waste water, comprising:
- a container;
 - a packed bed of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent provided in the container;
 - a liquid inlet provided in the container below the packed bed and connected to a source of the waste water;
 - a liquid outlet which is provided in the container above the packed bed and through which treated waste water is discharged from the container; and